

**ViNA Meeting
October 22, 2008
www.victoryneighborhood.org**

The meeting was held at St. John Missionary Baptist Church and called to order at 7:09 p.m. by Chair Matt Massman. Three items were added to the agenda. The amended agenda and the minutes from the September 24, 2008 meeting were approved by consensus.

Matt introduced the new officers for 2008-09, and reported on the recent Board retreat. Matt is the new chair, Gary Mortensen is the new Vice Chair, and Ann Kaari and Diane Spector will continue as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. The Board established the following four priorities for 2008-09: sustainability of the organization, housing programs, crime and safety, and moving forward with improvements to the 44th/Osseo/Penn intersection.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Events. Board member and chair Ann Kaari reported that the events committee would be working with the sustainability committee to determine how to continue to offer the wide variety of events in the neighborhood. Next meeting will be November 1 at 9:30 at the ViNA office.

Livability. Board member and committee chair Kris Brogan reported that the committee meetings are held the second Saturday of every month at Papa's Pizza. They will be focusing on a smaller number of work items for 2008-09.

Housing. Board member and committee chair Michael Ansel reported that the Housing Committee is finalizing housing program guidelines.

Business. Board member and committee chair Matt Massman reported that implementation of actions items in the 44th/Penn pedestrian study will be the focus of the Business Committee.

Environment. Board member and committee chair Diane Spector reported that the committee will be meeting on November 1 at 10 am at Steamworks to identify programs for 2008-09.

SUSTAINABILITY OF VINA

Board member and Sustainability Committee chair Gary Mortensen reported that the committee is working on determining long-term needs for funding and volunteers. The committee was formed last year to recognize that NRP funding is sunsetting. Many of the programs will continue, but there are limited funds for administration, including the office and part time staff person. The new city department taking over for NRP is still being organized. We don't know exactly how that will look and function, and how much funding will be available for basic neighborhood support. Gary provided an overview of what Debbie Nelson does for the neighborhood as the part-time administrator. He noted that the new Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission will be accepting applications for the neighborhood-elected seats on the board.

44th AND PENN PEDESTRIAN NEEDS STRATEGIC PLAN

Jim Benshoof from Wenck Associates, Inc. and Joan McLeod from Damon Farber appeared to provide an overview of the recently-completed 44th and Penn Pedestrian Study. Jim detailed the findings of the pedestrian and traffic analysis and Joan provided an overview of the enhancements and community character concepts that could be incorporated into potential improvements. Jim noted that the estimated cost of implementing the full plan is about \$1 million. In discussions with other agencies he found that some costs have already been budgeted: the city has funds for signal replacement and the county has funds for pavement repair. It may be possible to bundle these planned improvements with additional funds for an overall streetscape improvement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Housing Program Closure. Michael Anshel reported that the NRP Phase I housing programs are being closed as the NRP Phase II programs are phased in.

Minneapolis Idling Ordinance. Administrator Debbie Nelson reported that the idling ordinance is now in effect and it is now against the law to idle more than three minutes.

Holiday on 44th. Ann Kaari reported that this is the 11th year for Holiday on 44th, December 5 from 6-9 pm. The committee is looking for new sources of funding for its budget of about \$9,500.

Holiday Lights Contest. Debbie reported that the annual holiday lights contest will be held from December 5 until the end of the year. Nominees will receive a postcard informing them that they have been nominated and when the judges will be visiting their area.

Next Meeting Date. The next ViNA meeting will be December 10, and will be the annual holiday meeting. Everyone is invited to bring a treat if they like.

Bus Route 19R. Debbie reported that as of December 13 the bus will go back to the old route, terminating at York. But Metro Transit will continue to look at options for providing service to the Robbinsdale transit center.

Artist. Kris Brogan reported that local book illustrator Melodee Strong has won a book award and will be doing a show at Papa's Pizza. Kris also added a plea to support all local businesses during this economic downturn.

Camden Music School. Janet Zahn reported that there are various upcoming events, including November 8 and 15 fall recitals, and the 4th annual holiday concert and sing along on December 14 at 3 pm at Luther Memorial Church, 38th and Sheridan.

Volunteer Opportunities. Gary Mortensen reported that there are currently openings on the Minneapolis Arts Commission and the Minneapolis Housing Board of Appeals. The Northside Housing Fair will be March 21, 2009 and will need volunteers.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Diane Spector, Secretary
December 8, 2008